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Alice in the Country of Hearts ~Afternoon Tea with the Clock Rabbit~

Original artist: Fujimaru Mamenosuke

Raws: Spicy-diamond
Translator: Spicy-diamond
Cleaner: Straydog12
Typesetter: Straydog12
Editor: Vocaotome

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Admittedly, I like practical, simple clothes rather than light, floaty dresses.

These clothes are actually my sister's tastes.

flap

flap

I like the kind of hard work that gives you calluses, over than well bred young ladies giving their regards with a bright smile and tossed flower.

I prefer things like realistic, historical fiction over fairy tales where princes and princesses appear.

And yet...

HNN ...

NEED TO GET UP SOON...

GOOD MORNING!

SLAP
OW!
...This
...is the dream I've having.
episode 03
IT LOOKS LIKE MINISTER WHITE IS IN A GOOD MOOD, DOESN'T IT?
whisper
whisper
THAT'S THE ONLY THING IT COULD BE.
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE.
YES, IT SEEMS SHE'S COMING NEXT TIME PERIOD.
whisper
HOW IS IT?
MINISTER WHITE REALLY HAS CHANGED, HASN'T HE?
ONLY IN REGARDS TO THINGS THAT HAVE TO DO WITH HER THOUGH.
YES, THEY'VE ARRIVED.

I WON-DER IF ALICE WILL BE HAPPY?
NATU-RALLY! THEY WERE PREPARED FOR ALICE!
PLEASE HAVE A LOOK, THEY'RE QUITE BEAUTI-FUL.
What do you want to do?
I...
...ONLY WANT ALICE TO BE HAPPY.
IT WASN'T SOMETHING WORTH SLAPPING ME FOR THOUGH, WAS IT?

WHY?
WHY?, YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU OUGHT TO BE GRATEFUL THAT YOU GOT OFF LIGHTLY FOR SNEAKING INTO A GIRL'S BEDROOM WITHOUT PERMI-SSION.
IT'S JUST THAT HIS SENSE OF MORALS ARE LIKE A CAT'S.
...I GET IT.
Although, it's only natural to be wary after something like that happened.
...ANY WAY.
I DON'T LIKE IT, SO NEXT TIME DON'T COME IN WITHOUT PERMIS-SION.
'KAA AY~
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE SHOULD BE SO STARVED FOR ATTENTION AS TO STOP TO FLIRTING WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME, BUT...
...I WON-DER, ARE OUTSIDERS REALLY THAT INTERES-TING?
WELL, THAT ASIDE, I'M GRA-TEFUL FOR YOU GOING ALONG WITH VIVALDI'S REQUEST FOR ME.
IT'S FINE.

The contents of Vivaldi's invitation went something like this...
YOU ASKED ME A FAVOR.
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T COME ALONG.
FIDGETING
LIAR.
FIDGETING
For having said you'd come again soon, it's been quite a while since you've come.
Just how long do you intend to make us wait?
I've just obtained some some lovely tea. We'll have our tea party in 5 time periods. Do come.
Of course, don't forget to bring the cat with you
PS
EH? NO WAY... THE CASTLE OF HEARTS IS KINDA...
We are planning the preparation of exquisitely made fish dishes for the cat.
Do look forward to them.
....So.
(The sound of his pulse jumping)
CLACK
Arriving at the present.
WOW!

I THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE BUT SHE REALLY MADE THEM.
AS EXPECTED OF THE QUEEN! YOU REALLY KNOW CATS!
DELISH!
GASP!
MAYBE LIKING CATS IS JUST A CAMOUFLAGE AND VIVALDI AND BORIS ARE REALLY--
Though it certainly does seem like he likes fish.
FISH, BECAUSE HE'S A CAT?
BUT HE LOOKS SIMILAR TO A HUMAN.
The look of a pet owner.
AH, NOPE, SHE REALLY DOESN'T SEE BORIS AS ANYTHING BUT A CAT.
YES, SO WE SEE, IT'S DELICIOUS.
WE'RE GLAD. EAT AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE.

YES, IT'S QUITE A TREAT.
AND THEN? HOW ARE YOU FARING?
ALICE?
HMM ...
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE WAY THE RESIDENTS OF THIS WORLD THINK...
ISN'T IT?
THIS IS A TEA THAT TEA DRINKING CIVILIZATIONS STARTED A REVOLUTION OVER.
I HAD EXPECTED A STRONGER SCENT BUT...
THIS IS FRUITY AND EASY TO DRINK.
WHAT, HAVE YOU NOT HEARD OF IT?
AS USUALLY THAT MAN HAS NO SENSE.
BALL?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ALICE,
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE BALL?

AND, IN THE COUNTRY OF HEARTS THIS ORGANIZER IS HER MAJESTY.
YES.
THIS TIME, FOR THAT EVENT, WE THOUGHT TO HOLD A BALL.

IT'S ONE OF THE RULES OF THIS WORLD.
AN ORGANIZER IS DECIDED FOR EACH COUNTRY. THAT ORGANIZER MUST REGULARLY HOLD EVENTS.

dizzy
A BALL AT A CASTLE...
D... DID I REALLY WISH TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
H-HUH...
OH! NICE, LET'S GO TOGETHER~! ♪
YOU'LL PARTICIPATE TOO, YES?
THE OUTSIDER ISN'T OBLIGATED TO PARTICIPATE BUT, SINCE YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY...

CLATTER!
Hm?
WHAT!?
HEY, BORIS,
THAT DISH LOOKS LIKE IT HAS ONIONS IN IT, ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY?

AH!

ONION YOU SAY!?

HEY, SUMMON THE CHEF!!

Y-YES!

DAMN HIM... WE EVEN TOLD HIM THAT ONION WAS FORBIDDEN FOR CATS...!

ONION DESTROYS PARTS OF CATS RED BLOOD CELLS!!

WHAT WILL BE DONE IF HE GETS HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA AND HEINZ BODY ANEMIA!?

IF IT'S TREATED CARELESSLY HE COULD EVEN DIE!

SHE'S REALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE!

IS THE CHEF HERE YET!? WE'LL HAVE HIS HEAD!!

NOW, NOW VIVALDI.

IT WAS JUST A LITTLE MISTAKE.

IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GIVE HIM A WARNING TO BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THE NEXT CHEF MADE A WORSE MISTAKE?

HMM...

HM... THAT'S TRUE.

...WE UNDERSTAND. LET THE CHEF LIVE.

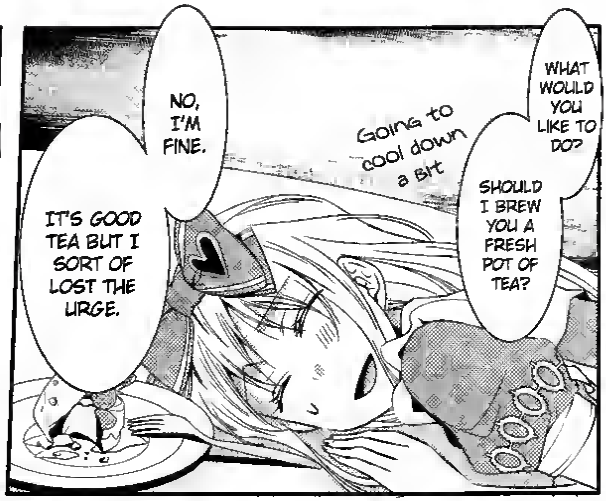
BUT TELL HIM THERE WILL BE NO NEXT TIME.

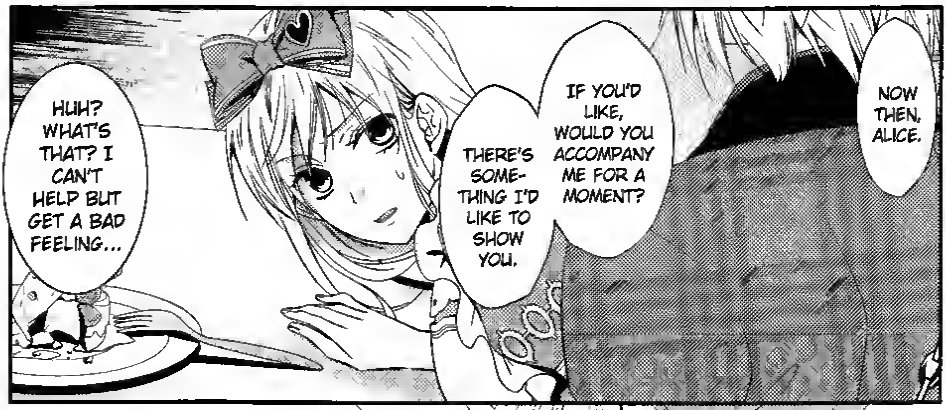
HAA..

relieved

excited
excited
excited
WHOA, SHE LOOKS REALLY HAPPY!
WE'VE SEARCH FOR SOME WONDERFUL THINGS FOR YOU.
COME.
EH? BUT THIS IS PRETTY GOOD?
IF YOU'D LIKE SOMETHING TASTY WE'LL PREPARE SOMETHING ELSE.
CAT! CONSUME NO MORE SUCH FOOD.
WE WORRY ABOUT THE DISHES THIS TIME.
Good luck!
RIGHT.
CLATTER
SORRY, ALICE.
I'M GONNA GO FOR A SEC.
Hm
S- SHE'S A CAT PERSON... WAS IT? KINDA CAN'T REFUSE CAN I...
thud
YOU DID WELL.
HAA...
THAT WAS AS TIRING AS USUAL-

BUT, I'VE SUDDENLY GOT SOME FREE TIME, HAVEN'T I?
Ahaha~


WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO?
SHOULD I BREW YOU A FRESH POT OF TEA?
Going to cool down a bit
NO, I'M FINE.
IT'S GOOD TEA BUT I SORT OF LOST THE URGE.


NOW THEN, ALICE.
IF YOU'D LIKE, WOULD YOU ACCOMPANY ME FOR A MOMENT?
THERE'S SOME-THING I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU.
HUH? WHAT'S THAT? I CAN'T HELP BUT GET A BAD FEELING...

...
PETER?

WILL YOU...
...COME WITH ME?
Whoa!
Poof
I...
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT?
SO?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?
COME ON, TELL ME.
AH, IT'S NO GOOD.
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW IT'S PETER, SINCE HE'S IN ANIMAL FORM I WANT TO BE NICER TO HIM.
JUST A LITTLE PRESENT I'VE PREPARED.

Hehe

IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU LIKE IT...

DAMN IT...

EVEN THOUGH HE'S PETER HE'S CUTE ...!

AH!

THIS IS IT, ALICE.

URK!

A-AH!

I'LL OPEN IT!

Uuuuuuh!!!

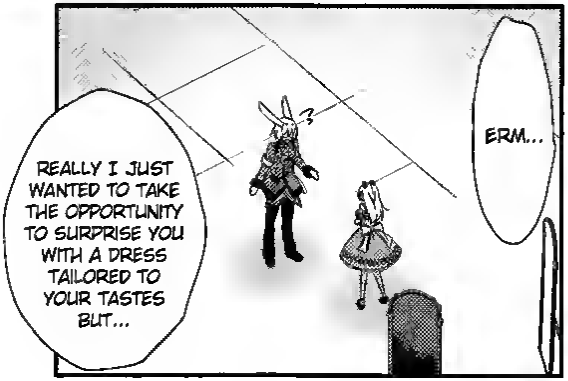
CREAK

...OOPS, WE'RE HERE ALREADY BUT, THIS IS A PRESENT FROM PETER, RIGHT?

IF IT'S SOMETHING RIDICULOUS I'LL MAKE A BREAK FOR IT...

THIS IS IT, THIS!

No matter where you look it's only red.
In that blood colored castle stood a single...
...Relatively simple, pale blue dress.
HOW IS IT!?
The Castle of Hearts of the Queen of Hearts who loves red.
AH, IT'S CUTE.
IF YOU LIKE IT, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT...
THIS...



UM, WON'T YOU TEACH ME YOUR PREFERENCES?

NEXT TIME I'LL PREPARE A MORE...

NO, I THINK IT'S GOOD.

I RATHER LIKE THE DESIGN.
I HATE THE FLASHIER ONES.
It's simple, but the elegance of the design...
If you think about it, it's probably really expensive....
REST ASSURED.
T-THEN YOU'LL ACCEPT IT...!?
YES, BUT THIS...
WHY?... THAT'S-
AH, NO!
YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANYTHING MORE, YOU STALKER!
HE SPOILED IT!
Memo
HOLD ON A SECOND! WHY DO YOU KNOW WHAT SIZE I AM?
CLENCH!!
THE SIZE IS PERFECTLY MATCHED TO YOUR MEASUREMENTS!
I CAREFULLY WENT OVER THE DETAILS WHEN I HAD IT TAILORED!!

IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU LIKE IT...

He's...

...a rabbit, right?

Are you happy?

Are you happy?

He's an animal just like Boris and the rest...

Gasp!

ALICE?

Wilt

turn

UM, DO YOU NOT LIKE IT AFTER ALL?

T-THAT'S NOT IT...!

BUT, I HAVEN'T TAKEN THE TIME TO LEARN THE PROPER ETIQUETTE, YOU KNOW.

I HAVEN'T EVER DANCED. I'M WORRIED I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DANCE PROPERLY.

IF I'M BAD IT WOULD REFLECT POORLY ON VIVALDI...

Step

THEN, LET'S PRACTICE HERE.

I'LL BE YOUR PARTNER.
BUT ...
WE'LL GO SLOWLY SO DON'T WORRY.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE STEPS?
step
SORT OF...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
EVEN IF YOU MESS UP IT WILL BE FINE.
BUT... SORRY IF I STEP ON YOUR FEET.
step
IT'S OKAY.
step

During Balls, he must entertain and dance with all kinds of girls.

I forget it but, he is the Prime Minister of the Castle of Hearts.

YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY SKILLFUL, ALICE.

...YOUR LEAD IS WHAT'S SKILLFUL.

Ahh, I get it.

SCUFF

Girls who would suit him much more than someone like me.

Probably much higher class and prettier girls than someone like me.

NO, I WAS THE ONE WHO TRIPPED...

WAAAH!

...OOPS

I APOLOGIZE!

HOLD IT-!?
I WON'T DO ANYTHING MORE!
I WON'T ...
...DO ANY-THING MORE SO...
PLEASE DON'T RUN AWAY.
PETER ...?
HUG

ALICE.
WOULD YOU ALLOW ME...
...TO BE YOUR ESCORT TO THE BALL THIS TIME?

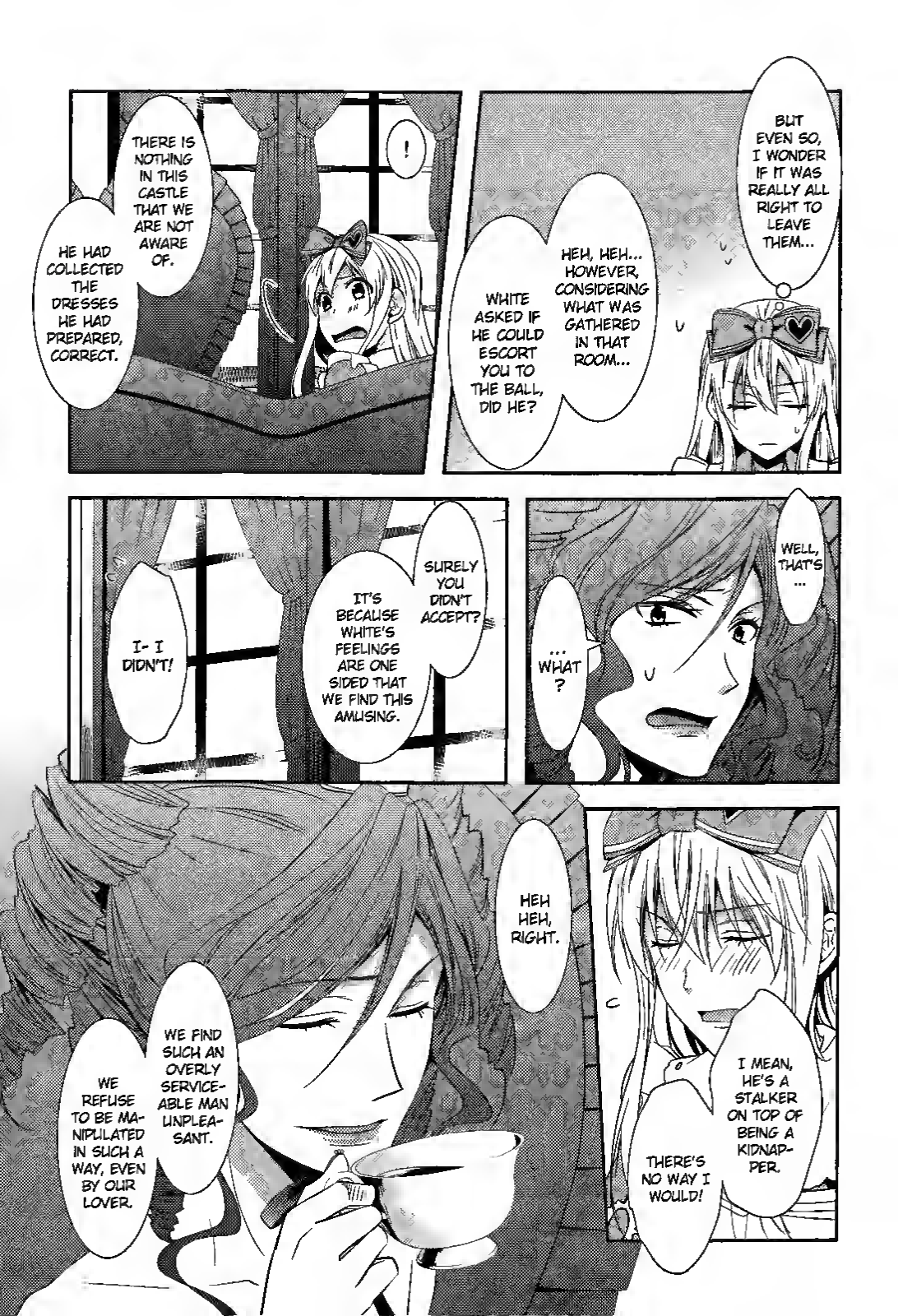
YOU HAVE LOTS OF TROUBLE TO DEAL WITH TOO, DON'T YOU...
WHAT ?
IS THE PRIME MINISTER HANGING ON YOU AGAIN?
opens
PE-
OH, THIS IS WHERE YOU GOT TO, ALICE.
WAIT, CHESHIRE CAT.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, LET'S GET GOING HOME.
I'M BORED.
STEP
walking
WELL, SOME ANNOYING STUFF POPPED UP...
B-BORIS!
WEREN'T YOU WITH VIVALDI?
ALICE!
THAT'S PRETTY BIG COMING FROM SOMEONE SHE ALWAYS AVOIDS DEALING WITH.
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING.
PLEASE DON'T INTERRUPT.

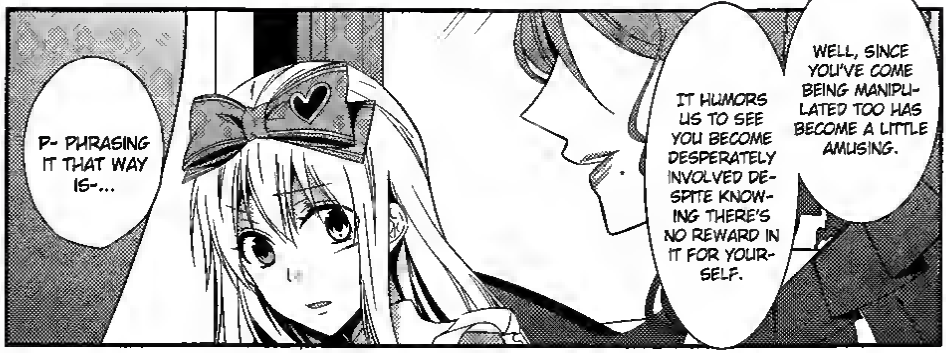
PLEASE DANCE WITH ME!
WITH THIS DRESS I'VE PREPARED.
YOU SAID YOU LIKED IT, DIDN'T YOU?
EH, WHAT'S THAT, WAS THE MOOD MAKING SERIOUSLY THAT GOOD?
YOU'RE GOING TO GO WITH THIS CRACK-BRAINED PRIME-
T- THAT'S NOT IT!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'D HAPPEN!!
I- I WAS-
KA-SHA-K
SEE~? IT WAS YOUR USUAL DELUSIONS AFTER ALL.
IN THAT CASE, WE DON'T NEED THAT DRESS EITHER, DO WE!

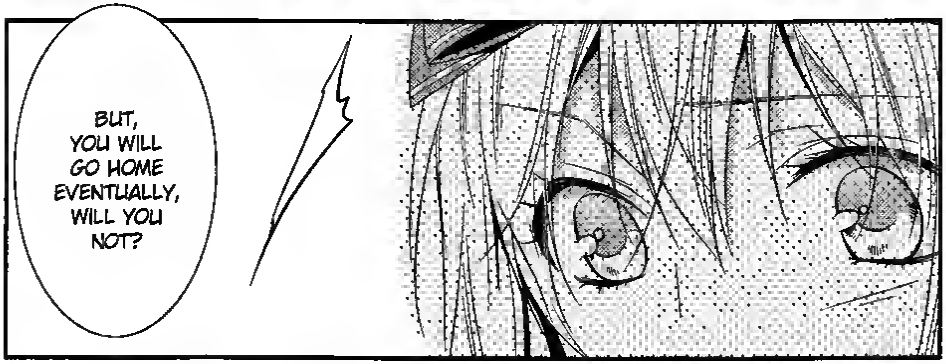
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
CLUNK

AH, BUT THIS MUCH COULD BE FIXED.
SHOULD WE BURN IT?
WHA-!
THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF DRESSES!!
HAVE NO FEAR, ALICE!
CURTAIN RISES
JUST HOW MANY DID YOU PREP-ARE!?
HEH ...
YOU'RE NAIVE, CHESHIRE CAT.
...PETER IS STILL PETER AFTER ALL.
KER-SHACK!
BANG!
Heh!
IN THAT CASE I'LL TEAR APART EVERY SINGLE ONE OF 'EM!
I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT!
BANG!
BANG!
PULL
WHAT ...!?
JUST LEAVE THEM BE.
GRIP
GEH, I'LL NEED TO STOP THEM.
HOLD IT! BOTH OF YOU STO-!

IT LOOKS LIKE THE CAT IS FINALLY HAVING FUN.
V-VIVALDI!?
HON-ESTLY, WE'RE SHOCKED AT THE CAT.
HERE WE HAD EVEN PREPARED THE HIGHEST CLASS CANNED CAT FOOD AND TOYS FOR HIM EVEN...
Heh
A LIVING RABBIT IS MORE INTER-ESTING, AFTER ALL.
S... SORR-
HE CAN'T HELP HIM-SELF.
YOU REALLY LOVE CATS DON'T, YOUR HIGHNESS?
CANNED CAT FOOD... TOYS...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU CAME RUNNING, RIGHT BORIS?
AND THEN, WHEN I THINK HE'S RAN AWAY – A RAUCOUS, BRAWL?


BUT EVEN SO, I WONDER IF IT WAS REALLY ALL RIGHT TO LEAVE THEM...
HEH, HEH... HOWEVER, CONSIDERING WHAT WAS GATHERED IN THAT ROOM...
WHITE ASKED IF HE COULD ESCORT YOU TO THE BALL, DID HE?
!
THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS CASTLE THAT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF.
HE HAD COLLECTED THE DRESSES HE HAD PREPARED, CORRECT.
WELL, THAT'S ...
... WHAT ?
SURELY YOU DIDN'T ACCEPT?
IT'S BECAUSE WHITE'S FEELINGS ARE ONE SIDED THAT WE FIND THIS AMUSING.
I- I DIDN'T!
I MEAN, HE'S A STALKER ON TOP OF BEING A KIDNAPPER.
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD!
HEH HEH, RIGHT.
WE FIND SUCH AN OVERLY SERVICEABLE MAN UNPLEASANT.
WE REFUSE TO BE MANIPULATED IN SUCH A WAY, EVEN BY OUR LOVER.


P- PHRASING IT THAT WAY IS-...
IT HUMORS US TO SEE YOU BECOME DESPERATELY INVOLVED DESPITE KNOWING THERE'S NO REWARD IN IT FOR YOURSELF.
WELL, SINCE YOU'VE COME BEING MANIPULATED TOO HAS BECOME A LITTLE AMUSING.


BUT, YOU WILL GO HOME EVENTUALLY, WILL YOU NOT?

WE WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO WHITE AFTER YOU'VE GONE.

THUS EVERYTHING YOU DO IS MEANINGLESS.
IS IT NOT HUMOROUS?

...!
slide
IF HE LOSES YOU...
...HM,
IF HE LOSES YOU...?
HEH, HEH.
THAT'S A GOOD EXPRESSION.
WE WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO WHITE....
...IF HE WERE TO LOSE YOU?

LOOKING AROUND
GEEZE, WHERE DID SHE GO?
HEY-! ALIIICE!
ALICE-!
STAYING IN THE CASTLE LIKE THIS AND GETTING SPOTTED BY THE QUEEN WOULD BE ANNOYING TOO...
IF I LEAVE HER, THE OLD MAN WILL MAKE A FUSS BUT...
Hm
But...
PANT
DARN IT.
I SHOULD HAVE JUST LEFT THAT CHESHIRE CAT ALONE.
St
Now that an Outsider has finally wandered in...
It'd be no fun if she was taken away by the guys from the other Territories either.

STEP
No, are they being silenced?
If that's the case...
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
The maids and soldiers both, to say that not a single one of them knows something?
YOU'RE BOTH USELESS...
N-NO...
WE'RE VERY SORRY.
YOU MAIDS THERE!
HAVE YOU SEEN ALICE!?
...YOUR MAJESTY.
YOU SEEM TO BE IN QUITE A HURRY, WHITE.
YES, CERTAINLY WE KNOW.
YOU KNOW ...
...WHERE ALICE IS, DON'T YOU YOUR MAJESTY.

episode:04